



# Helping Hoosier Families

Informative publications available to you!

The Indiana House of Representatives has several new useful and informative publications available at no charge. Please call me, 1-800-382-9842, if you would like to receive any of the publications from the following list:



- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ✓ Indiana's Amber Alert Plan | ✓ Booster Seat Safety           |
| ✓ Women's Heart Health       | ✓ Indiana's CHOICE program      |
| ✓ Fireworks Safety           | ✓ The New Medicare Law          |
| ✓ Medicare Fraud             | ✓ The HoosierRx program         |
| ✓ Fighting Methamphetamine   | ✓ 21st Century Scholars program |

## State Representative John Aguilera—Working For You!

### Office

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800-382-9842

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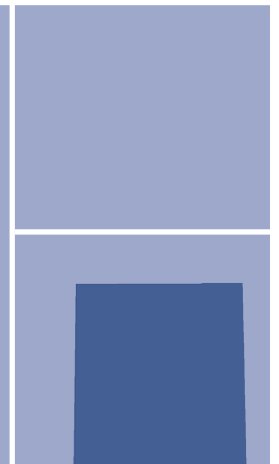
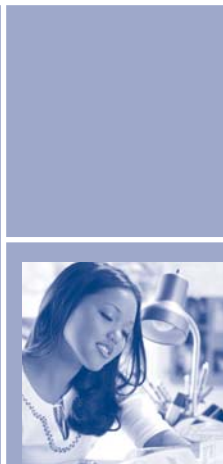
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# State Representative John Aguilera



## Helping Hoosier Families



- ✓ Know your rights—Indiana's voting procedures
- ✓ Indiana's 21st Century Scholars Fund for Hoosier students
- ✓ The Amber Alert System

# 21st Century Scholars Program

For almost 40 years, the state of Indiana has been offering assistance to college-bound students through various grants and scholarships. One of the most exciting programs that the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana (SSACI) currently offers is called the **21st Century Scholars Program**, which is geared toward seventh and eighth graders who have the potential but not the funds to attend college in Indiana.

The 21st Century program gives Scholars full-tuition awards to Indiana's public colleges or universities, or comparable awards to private in-state institutions for up to eight semesters. Scholars may defer their Scholarships for up to two years to pursue the military or other obligations. I have highlighted eligibility and enrollment information to the right.

This program has helped to make higher education available to many students who would otherwise not have a chance to pursue college opportunities. If students have any questions, they should be sure to see their school's guidance counselor, or call my legislative office at 800-382-9842. Students must enroll by June 30 of either their seventh or eighth grade year.



## Eligibility

To be an eligible 21st Century Scholar, a student must:

- ▶ Be an Indiana resident
- ▶ Be enrolled in the seventh or eighth grade at an accredited Indiana school, and
- ▶ Either meet the income guidelines listed below, or be a ward of the state.

Household Size	Maximum Income
2	\$22,422
3	\$28,231
4	\$34,010
For each additional person, add:	\$5,809

## Application

As part of the application for the 21st Century Program, Scholars sign a Pledge of good citizenship and responsible behavior, which requires a commitment to their academic work. The Pledge requires the Scholar to:

- ▶ Remain alcohol, drug and crime free,
- ▶ Graduate from an Indiana high school with at least a 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 scale, and
- ▶ Apply for state and federal college financial aid by submitting his/her completed FAFSA in time for it to be received by March 10 of his/her senior year.

To request an application, students can visit their school guidance counselors, or call toll-free: **1-800-992-2076**.

## Indiana's Amber Alert Plan

A statewide notification program to help locate abducted and endangered children

The Amber Plan was started in July 1997 to help safely recover missing children that police believe have been abducted. The Association of Radio Managers in Dallas, Texas, created the program in memory of 9-year-old Amber Hagerman who was abducted and murdered in 1996.

The goal of the Amber Plan is safe recovery of missing children that a law enforcement agency believes have been abducted and are in danger of serious harm or death. Since 1997, more than 40 other Amber Plan programs have been adopted or modified at local, regional and statewide levels. The first 24 hours which are the most critical hours in an abduction.

In Indiana, the Amber Alert Plan is a statewide notification program utilizing the power of free, over-the-air electronic media as the best way to quickly reach Indiana citizens who may have information leading to the return of a missing or abducted child. Through the Indiana Amber Alert Plan, listeners and viewers will become the eyes and ears for police, and hopefully aid in the return of the child.

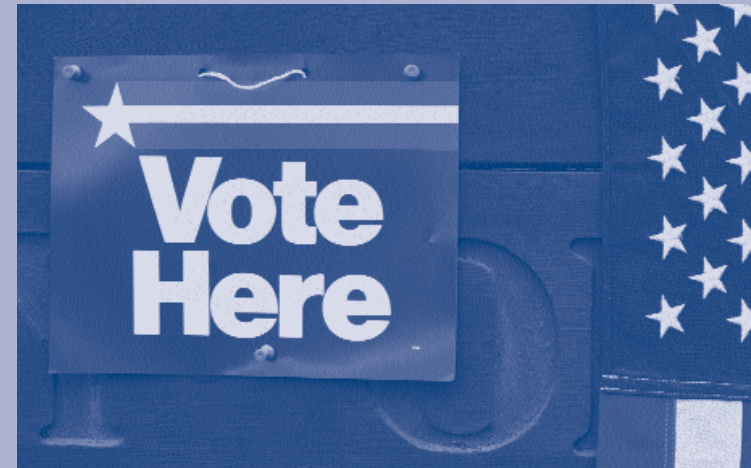
Each city or state's Amber Plan program establishes its own criteria, activation procedures, and distribution methods and is administered separately in accordance with Emergency Alert System procedures approved by the FCC.

For example, the Indiana Amber Alert Plan has four Alert criteria:

- The child must be under 18 years of age.
- The child must be believed to be abducted, and in danger of serious bodily harm or death.
- There must be enough descriptive information to believe the broadcast will help.
- Request must be recommended by the law enforcement agency of jurisdiction.



# Know Your Rights!



## What If I Go To Vote On November 2 and My Name Is Not On The Voting Rolls?

Sometimes a voter's name is mistakenly left off the voting rolls. This can happen to people who register to vote just before the deadline for registration. At other times, the voter comes to the wrong polling place and just needs to go to the correct site.

If your name is not on the voting rolls, the poll worker is required to call the county clerk's office to figure out what went wrong.

If it turns out that your name was left off the voting rolls by mistake, you will be allowed to vote. If you are at the wrong precinct, the poll worker will direct you to your actual polling site.

If the poll worker cannot figure out the problem, you are entitled to cast a "provisional" ballot. The ballot will be set aside until the clerk's office can decide whether your provisional ballot is valid and must be counted.

When voters cast a provisional ballot, they must fill out an affidavit providing information that will help ascertain the voter's status. If you cast a provisional ballot, **make sure you are given the affidavit with the ballot.**

## If your name is on the poll list but you have moved to a new address

You are allowed to vote one last time in your old precinct if you sign the poll book with the new address.

## can I Vote?

In Indiana you have the right to vote in an election if:

- You are a U.S. citizen;
- You are a resident of Indiana;
- You will be at least 18 years of age at the next general or municipal election;
- You have lived in the precinct where you vote for at least 30 days before the election;
- You are not currently in prison; and
- You are registered to vote.

## Voter Protections, Assistance

•**Voters Needing Assistance**—If you need help at the polls because you are disabled or cannot read or write English, you have the right to receive assistance to cast a vote in every election. The person helping can be a poll worker or someone you choose. However, your employer or union representative cannot assist you.

•**Accessible Polls**—You have the right to a polling place that is accessible to a person with disabilities.

•**Traveling Voting Boards**—If you are confined due to illness or disability, you may to vote at your place of confinement before a traveling absentee voting board.

•**Waiting at the Polls at Closing**—If you have begun the process of voting, or are waiting in the chute to begin the process of voting before the closing of the polls at 6 p.m., you have the right to cast a vote in that election.

To register to vote in Lake County please contact the County Board of Elections and Registration  
2293 North Main Street  
Crown Point, IN 46307 (219) 755-3795